

Serial No. 09/606,730

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above-identified patent application has been amended and re-examination and reconsideration are hereby requested.

It is first noted that an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was filed electronically on December 16, 2004, copy enclosed. Acknowledgement by the Examiner is hereby requested.

Claims 4 and 40 have been amended to more clearly point out the relationship between the memory and the directors.

Claims 22-25 have been cancelled.

Claim 35 has been amended to depend on claim 34.

Claims 50 and 51 have been cancelled.

Claims 4 and 40 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,214,768 of Martin in view of Minomiya.

With regard to this rejection, applicant points out that it has a global memory for storing user data. The global memory is accessible by all directors. Because all directors have access to the global memory for user data there is a requirement for arbitration to decide which one of multiple requesting directors has access to the global memory. This arbitration for the global memory by the plurality of directors increases access time and reduces system bandwidth. Therefore, the Examiner's position that the use of a memory accessible by a plurality of directors such as in Ninomiya (U.S. Patent No. 5,819,054) in the system of Martin et al, reduces access time, thus providing a faster system, is not understood.

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In the event any additional fee is required, please charge such amount to Patent and
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Respectfully submitted,

Date

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